What’s the goal?

In a writers group, we have a chance to work with others who, like ourselves, love to write and are eager to improve our craft. While each of us may have a sense of some of our strengths and weaknesses as writers, some elements of our work simply elude us. These are our “blind spots.” A group like this, in which our work is read, discussed and critiqued on a regular basis, helps to shed light on some of those spots as we start to see patterns in the type of feedback we’re getting. As we keep writing, then, that feedback makes its way into our work, both intentionally and subconsciously.

What will happen in a BOLLI writing group?

We will dive into three ventures during each Writers Guild session. First, we’ll engage in a “warm-up” exercise in which we take on a prompt and “free write” for five to ten minutes. Those who might want to share the results of that impromptu work are welcome to do so.

Then, we move on to sharing the “real work” that each of us has brought to the session. The writer should let the group know if there is something particular that the he or she would like for the group to focus on when listening or reading along. When finished, the writer should sit back and listen as the group responds, noting aspects of the writing they found to be working well and providing “what if you tried…?” questions designed to help the writer move forward. During this phase, the writer should take note of suggestions that she/he might choose to explore.

And, finally, we will focus on “what comes next?” by looking at a writing prompt or challenge to address for our next meeting.

Any type of writing is “Guild worthy”—fiction and/or non-fiction of any genre.